Menshek, Peggy Y

From:

José Luis V. <traveltheworld.v@gmail.com>

Sent:

Thursday, March 01, 2012 2:03 PM

To:

Redistricting2012; mdean@commoncause.org

Cc:

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Subject:

IMPORTANT: Latino, Native, Somali, and African American Opportunity Map = Equity for All

Mr. Clegg, Charter Commissioners, and Redistricting Committee:

Here is a link to the map we in the Latino community have been working on:

http://localdistrictbuilder.drawminnesota.org/districtmapping/plan/479/view/

As a concerned Latino community member I write to you today to request your support in keeping the Minneapolis Latino community together through the redistricting process. In this letter I include a link to a copy of a map which has been approved by leaders in the Native American, Latino, and African American community. This map also raised interest in the Somali community when it was presented by our community member Mariano Espinoza at last night's public hearing.

This map creates a minority opportunity in four different wards for four different groups, not to be confused with the "minority coalition" language. Our map above also deconcentrates poverty and balances wealth. This map gives the White community a chance to build coalitions with communities of color rather than leaving that responsibility solely to communities of color. The current maps on the redistricting website divide the Latino community and shoves all of the people of color into one ward - where a minority coalition is assumed to happen. Unfortunately, when you cram a variety of people of color into one ward you will force the Native, Latino, and Somali community to compete with one another for political representation. No one will be singing "kumbaya."

This map preserves the Latino community's ability to be represented in City government by uniting the neighborhoods with the largest Latino population in south Minneapolis. This map also respects the Native community and their neighborhood while giving the Somali community the chance to unite their population that is across the river. The African American community is kept together and is economically diversified with the addition of the North Loop.

We hope you can take this map into consideration when you draw the final lines. We hope you will give our Latino community the ability to organize and mobilize by keeping them together to elect someone who best represents our experience, needs, and opportunities.

I hope to be present at tonight's hearing to elaborate,

Jose Luis Villasenor

- > Jose Luis Villasenor
- > 2708 18th Ave. S.
- > Minneapolis, MN 55407
- > 612-986-0832

On Wed, Feb 29, 2012 at 5:16 PM, José Luis V.

- <traveltheworld.v@gmail.com> wrote:
- > Dear Charter Members and Redistricting Committee,
- > As a concerned Latino member and home owner in East Phillips I submit
- > this map for your review which will be presented tonight by Mariano
- > Espinoza (resident in Powderhorn).
- >
- > We are concerned that only a few voices are being heard in this
- > process and we ask that you please hear our Latino community as it
- > proposes this map to help all residents of Minneapolis be they
- > white, Black, Latino, Somali, Native to have a fair representation.
- > We hope you can consider our efforts and our map to preserve these
- > communities of interest.
- > Thank you for your time,
- > Jose Luis Villasenor
- > 2708 18th Ave. S.
- > Minneapolis, MN 55407
- > 612-986-0832